

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DOTE-00 FEA-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /078 W

----- 008141

O 130920Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1823

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPAC HONO HI

DIA WASHDC

USCG WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SENV, TGEN, SN

SUBJ: SHOWA MARU GROUNDING IN SINGAPORE STRAITS

REF: A. STATE 007242; B. JAKARTA 409; C. TOKYO 375

SUMMARY: OFFLOADING OF OIL FROM SHOWA MARU PROCEEDING SLOWLY DUE TO LOW PUMPING CAPACITY. SALVAGE FIRM NEEDS ADDITIONAL PUMPS AVAILABLE FROM USCG BUT DOES NOT REQUIRE MANPOWER. NEW LEAK REPORTED BUT DID NOT RESULT IN MAJOR SPILL. HEAVY STRESS ON MIDSHIPS COULD CAUSE TANKER TO BREAK UP.

1. EMBOFF MORNING JAN 13 CONTACTED ALLEN BOND, OFFICIAL OF SELCO PTE. LTD., SALVAGE FIRM WHICH IS OFFLOADING OIL AND ATTEMPTING REFLOAT GROUNDED TANKER, FOR LATEST STATUS ON SALVAGE OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE REPORTS IN JAKARTA: REFTEL B PARA 1, THAT SHOWS CONFIDENTIAL

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MARU HAS BEEN SALVAGED, TANKER HAS NOT BEEN REFLOATED AND SEVERAL

PROBLEMS HAVE COMBINED TO HAMPER OPERATION.

2. BOND REPORTED OIL TRANSFER PROCEEDING ON NONSTOP BASIS, BUT BECAUSE

OF CAPACITY OF HYDRAULIC PUMPS CURRENTLY BEING UTILIZED (2 PUMPS NOW PUMPING APPROXIMATELY 400 TONS PER HOUR), IT WILL BE SOME TIME, AS MUCH AS 3 WEEKS ACCORDING TO BOND, BEFORE TANKER COULD BE MOVED. ADDITIONAL PUMPS, REPORTEDLY AVAILABLE ONLY FROM USCG, ARE SORELY NEEDED TO SPEED UP OPERATION. PRESENT RATE OF 400 TONS PER HOUR DECREASING AS LEVEL OF OIL IN TANK LOWERS CAUSING GREATER LIFT. BOND EMPHASIZED REQUIREMENT FROM USCG IS FOR HIGH CAPACITY SUBMERSIBLE HYDRAULIC PUMPS ONLY AND NOT REPEAT NOT MANPOWER. USCG TEN-MAN TEAM OFFERED WOULD BE WELCOME ASSIST IN OPERATION, BUT BOND IS OF VIEW THAT DISPATCH OF EQUIPMENT ONLY AND ASAP MOST DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT.

3. BOND AND PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA) PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THIS MORNING OF NEW LEAK IN TANKER'S CENTER TANK. ACCORDING TO BOND, LEAK FIRST NOTICED EARLY AFTERNOON JAN 12 AND STOPPED WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS. ENSUING OIL SPILL OF 200-300 TONS CAUSED SEVERAL SMALL SLICKS WHICH WERE DISPERSED BY DETERGENTS OUTSIDE PORT LIMITS. HOWEVER, PSA HAS NOT CONFIRMED THAT THE LEAK HAS STOPPED AND CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN TWO ANTI-POLLUTION CRAFT AT THE SITE.

4. PRESS REPORTED ON SUNDAY, APPARENTLY BASED ON STATEMENTS ISSUED BY SELCO AND PSA PORTMASTER, POSSIBILITY THAT TANKER COULD BREAK UP OR KEEL OVER TO SIDE DUE TO INTENSE STRESS AND STRAIN AS OIL IS PUMPED OUT. ON SUNDAY, PSA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRESS REPORT WAS EXAGGERATED AND THERE WAS NO IMMINENT DANGER OF THE SHOWA MARU BREAKING UP, OR ITS POSITION SHIFTING, THOUGH THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. PSA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THE INCREASED BUOYANCY AS THE OIL IS TRANSFERRED COUPLED WITH THE STRESSES CONTINUING OVER THE PERIOD OF THE OFFLOADING COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. BOND OF SELCO ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT HEAVY STRESS ON TANKER'S MIDSHIPS BUT SEES NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF BREAKUP. HE AGAIN UNDERSCORED NEED TO TRANSFER OIL ASAP, SAYING THIS WOULD MINIMIZE THREAT OF FURTHER DAMAGE.

5. COMMENT: SINCE LOCAL SALVAGE FIRM CAN OPERATE SPECIAL PUMPS AND  
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DOES NOT NEED COAST GUARD TEAM, EMBASSY BELIEVES SALVAGE OPERATION COULD BE EXPEDITED IF PUMPS SENT IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT TEAM. PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD OBTAIN NEED FOR INDONESIAN CLEARANCE. CRONK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHOWA MARU, OIL SPILLS, STRAITS, SHIP ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, EWWT, SENV, TGEN, SN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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